

SECRET

25 November 1946

To: HQ 1
From: AH 45
Subject: Ugo DADONE (Ex-Major)

1. Ugo DADONE, an Italian journalist, is reported to be leaving Italy 27 November 1946 for a three-months trip to the Middle East. He plans to go first to Turkey and then to Syria and Lebanon.
2. Ugo DADONE, son of Andrea DADONE and Ernesta DE BENEDETTI DADONE, was born in Agropoli (Salerno), 3 June 1886. In 1911 he married Margherita Kasparova VACLAV, born in Czechoslovakia. Subject now resides at Via Varone 2, Rome. Besides his work as a journalist, he claims to be working part time at the Istituto Nazionale del Mastro Assuro. He speaks French, German, Arabic, Russian, Czech and Spanish. He has held a very high position in the Masons.
3. DADONE is described as tall, boney build; ht 1.84; wt 80 kgs; grey hair, combed back, usually dishevelled; tanned, weather-beaten complexion, pronounced lineation around eyes and mouth; square, lantern-jaw; grey eyes. World War I wound to left leg causes pronounced limp. He usually carries a heavy cane as a walking aid; stooped gait.
4. Subject was one of MUSSOLINI's most active collaborators from 1914 on. Immediately after the Armistice in 1918, subject was sent to Prague as Italian observer to the General Staff of the new Czech army. He became quite friendly with the MASARYKS and other leading Czechs.
5. Subject secured permission to enter Russia in March 1920 because of being instrumental in putting the Italian Minister in touch with the head of the Russian Delegation. He made observations on conditions under the new Regime first in Petrograd, later in Moscow, where he was hampered in his contacts because of having been assigned an "escort". He was expelled from Russia in April as a result of his "shaking" the escort and traveling unescorted for about a week. After leaving Russia he wrote what he had seen, and an article written on what he had observed of OB led to his being tried and sentenced to death in absentia by the Soviets.

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6. From June 1946 to April 1929 subject was an Italian Consul in Czechoslovakia. He claims that while in Prague he had excellent success in handling his Russian colleagues.

7. In 1930 subject was sent to New York by the Direzione Italiana all'Estero to take charge of the propaganda of the Lega Fascista di Nord America. In September 1931 he went to Buenos Aires to work with the Press Attache there and to act as Ministry of Corporations propagandist.

8. In July, 1933, DADONE was sent to Cairo to set up a correspondence bureau to support the propaganda work done by the Italian papers in Egypt. In July, 1935, he was given the task of setting up and directing the AGENZIA D'INFORMAZIONI E D'ORIENT (A.I.O.) which was to compete with Reuter's and Havas and was part of Italy's propaganda campaign during the Abyssinian War. He ran a network of under-cover propaganda agents and made preparations to set up a clandestine news intercept service. He fled from Egypt in 1940. In September, 1940, he was sent to Libya to broadcast propaganda to Egypt, Syria and Palestine. In November, 1940, he was recommended for the Order of Merit of the German Eagle for his work in Italian Africa. He received this decoration.

9. In October, 1941, he was sent to the Russian front on behalf of the Propaganda Office of the Army. In February, 1942, he was recalled to Rome for assignment by the General Staff to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the handling of Arab leaders then in Rome. Until transferred to Tunis in March, 1943, he was in contact with the Mufti, al-GAYLANI, Masur DAUD, Habib BURGIBA and other Arab leaders.

10. In May, 1943, subject was taken prisoner in Tunis. He was interrogated and finally repatriated. He was demobilized in September, 1945.

11. DADONE now holds passport #163381, issued 21 August 1946 at Rome. He is traveling in the Near East as special correspondent for a group of Italian papers.

12. Watch for our next installment!

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